Library

OCT 61
C.R.

WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

REPORT 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

The number of live births attributable to the District was 38 or 6 fewer than in the year 1959. This gives a birth rate of 13.7 (15.2 adjusted) as compared with 17.1 for England and Wales.

The number of deaths was 41 or 9 fewer than in the previous year, giving a death rate of 14.8 (14.9 adjusted) as compared with 11.5 for the country as a whole. The principal causes of deaths were diseases of the heart and circulating system, which accounted for no fewer than 26 of the deaths. There were three deaths from cancer of the lung as compared with one in the previous year. Deaths from malignant disease in other sites numbered three as against two in 1959. It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths of infants under one year of age. There were four such deaths in 1959. It is also a matter of much satisfaction to again report that there were no deaths arising from pregnancy or childbirth.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases was 37 compared with 22 in 1959. Measles accounts for 29 of these notifications. There were no notifications of cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis.

On the 1st December, 1960, the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Amendment Regulations came into operation. These regulations provide for the notification by medical practitioners to the Medical Officer of Health of all cases of Anthrax.

Details of the attention given to the sanitary circumstances of the District are given in the Report. During the year efforts were made to expedite the conversion of pail and waste water closets to fresh water closets and it is hoped that the results of these efforts will be more apparent during the present year. Other matters requiring attention are the clearance of houses which cannot be rendered fit at reasonable cost, implementation of the scheme for more efficient treatment of the public water supply and further improvements at the sewage disposal works.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members for the kind consideration shown to Dr. Doherty and myself at all times. My thanks are also due to Mr. Ryan, Clerk of the Council, Mr. Phillips and subsequently Mr. Carr, who has now succeeded him as Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, for their willing assistance.

Your obedient servant,

J. WALKER

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

SECTION A,

The area of the district is 4,190 acres. The population figure at the 1931 Census was 3,040. For 1960 the Registrar General calculated the population as 2,770.

The rateable value was £21,971 and a penny rate produced £~~85~~ 100.

The chief industries are Paper Making, Quarrying, Saw Mills and Cotton Mills. There has been no change in social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total.
1. LIVE BIRTHS.			
Legitimate	19	18	37
Illegitimate	1	NIL	1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population			
Crude 13.7			
Adjusted 15.2 (England & Wales 17.1)			
2. STILL BIRTHS			
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live & still births 73.2 (England & Wales 19.7)			
Total Live & Still Births			41
3. INFANT DEATHS			
Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
4. INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS		NIL (England & Wales 21.7)	
5. NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE			
Per 1,000 live Births		NIL (England & Wales 15.6)	
6. PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE			
Per 1,000 total Births		73.2	
7. MATERNAL DEATHS			
(including abortion)		NIL	
8. MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS		NIL (England & Wales 0.39)	

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30288125

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total.
1. ALL CAUSES	25	16	41

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude 14.8 ADJUSTED 14.9

2. RESPIRATORY T.B.	NIL	1	1

Rate per 1,000 estimated population 0.36

3. MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	5	1	6

Rate per1,000 estimated population 2.17

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

BIRTHS 1.11

DEATHS 1.01

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS.
CRUDE RATE.

YEAR	Live Births		Deaths all causes		Still - births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality Total under 1 year		Infant Mortality Neo-Natal under 4 weeks	
	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 population	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 population	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 total deaths	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 live Births.
1960	38	15.2	41	14.9	3	73.2	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1959	44	17.5	50	17.9	2	43.5	NIL	NIL	4	90.90	2	45.5
1958	33	13.1	42	15.5	1	29.4	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1957	38	13.5	4	14.6	2	50	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1956	42	14.9	32	11.3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1955	41	14.5	56	19.5	2	47	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1954	37	13.0	32	11.3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

ADJUSTED Live Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.11) 15.2 per 1,000 est. popn.

ADJUSTED Death Rate (comparability factor 1,01) 14.9 per 1,000 est. popn.

ENGLAND & WALES.

Live Birth Rate 17.1 per 1,000 home population

Death Rate 11.5 per 1,000 home population

ANALYSIS OF CAUSE OF DEATH

CAUSE	Male	Female	Total
1. TUBERCULOSIS	-	1	1
11. MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS, LUNG, BRONCHUS	3	-	3
13. MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS UTERUS	-	1	1
14. OTHER MALIGNANT & LYMPHATIC NEOPLASMS	2	-	2
17. VASCULAR LESIONS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM	4	3	7
18. CORONARY DISEASE, ANGINA	4	1	5
19. HYPERTENSION WITH HEART DISEASE	2	-	2
20. OTHER HEART DISEASE	3	4	7
21. OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE	4	1	5
24. BRONCHITIS	1	2	3
27. GASTRITIS, ENTERITIS, DIARRHOEA	-	1	1
32. OTHER DEFINED & ILL-DEFINED DISEASES	1	1	2
33. MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	1	1	2
ALL CAUSES	25	16	41

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. J. Walker, M.B.,C.H.B.,L.D.S.,D.P.H.D.P.D.

Other Public Appointments.

M.O.H.	Chorley Borough
M.O.H.	Leyland U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Longridge U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Preston R.D.C.

HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Kenneth Phillips.
A Part Time Officer holding the appointment of Surveyor.

No other Public Health Officer held office during 1960.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Public Health Laboratory, Preston is available for the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious disease and for patholgical specimens for ordinary disease.

Similar use of this laboratory is made for the bacteriological examination of samples of milk, water and ice cream, etc.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Provided by the Lancashire County Council Ambulance Service. (Chorley Depot) - Telephone Chorley 2744.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There is one District Nurse practising in the area. She may be consulted via the Divisional Officer, Preston 77263.

TREATMENT CLINIC FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

The 'Minor Ailment' Clinic is held at 20, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley each Monday at 10.30 a.m.
Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopeadic, Dental and Eye etc.) are held at Chorley and attended by Practitioners of Specialist Status. Attendance by appointment via School Medical Staff.

CHEST CLINIC

The Chest Clinic is at 34, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley. The Chest Physician attends each Tuesday at 10. a.m. This Clinic is a consultant Clinic for all Chest Conditions.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS.

Held at Chorley and District Hospital, Wigan Infirmary and Bolton Infirmary.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

For non-infectious cases - Chorley and District Hospital, Preston Infirmary, Blackburn Infirmary, and Sharoe Green

For Infectious Cases - Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock,
Smallpox - Smallpox Hospital, Ainsworth, Nr. Bury.
Tuberculosis - Sanitorium (50 Beds at Isolation Hospital Heath Charnock)
All administered by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

These Services are administered by the Lancashire County Council.

Domicilary Facilities.

There is one District Nurse, Midwife practising in this area. She can be consulted via the Divisional Office, Preston 77263.

Ante Natal Clinics & Post Natal Clinics.

These Clinics are held on Fridays at (10 a.m.) at 2-4, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley. They are attended by a consultant obstetrician. No appointment is needed for the first visit.

Maternity Beds.

The available accommodation at Chorley is as follows:-

Chorley and District Hospital

Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

Child Welfare.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly(Tuesday 2-4 p.m.) at the Withnell Conservative Club, and is attended fortnightly by a Medical Officer (Dr. O'Neil) of the Lancashire County Council as well as the County Health Visitor. Ministry of Health Welfare Foods and other propriety baby foods may be obtained at this clinic.

Health Visitors.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Nurse Lamb who is available to give advice on all the County Health and Welfare Services. She may be consulted through the Divisional Officer, 55, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston. (Telephone Preston 77263).

Home Helps.

A Home Help Service in cases of Sickness, Maternity and Old Age is available in the area. Application for Home Helps should be made to the Divisional Health Officer, 55, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston (Telephone Preston 77263).

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis is given at 2-4, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley each Monday from 2-4 p.m. and each Wednesday from 7-8 p.m.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was

Types of Tuberculosis	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Respiratory	16	10	15	15	15	16
Non Respiratory	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious diseases were admitted to the Joint Hospital at Deepdale when necessary.

Smallpox Cases - there were none - would have been admitted to the Ainsworth Hospital at Bury.

Notifiable Disease	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED											
	Total all ages	Age periods - Years										
		0 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	Age Un-known	Total Deaths
Smallpox	NIL											
Scarlet Fever	2						1	1				
Diptheria	NIL											
Measles	29	2	2	1		2	14	8				
Whooping Cough	2			1	1							
Acute Pneumonia	1								1			
Erysipelas	1									1		
Gastro enteritis	1								1			
Dysentery	1					1						
Puerperal pyrexia	NIL											
Poliomyelitis	NIL											
Meningococcal Infection	NIL											
Food Poisoning	NIL											
Totals	37	2	2	2	1	3	15	9	2	1		

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Production.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 inspection and supervision of milk production is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Local Authority is responsible for the Cleanliness and safety of Milk Retailed in the district.

MILK SAMPLES.

TEST	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
Biological for T.B.	10	-
Brucellosis	7	1 (2 no result)
Methylene Blue Raw Milk	8	3
Phosphatase	8	-
Methylene Blue Heat Treated Milk	8	-
Turbidity	2	-
Total	43	4

Meat and other Foods.

7 shops are registered as selling meat. Meat is bought direct as there is no private slaughterhouse in the district. Tinned meat, fruit and vegetables were inspected and in cases where necessary were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation. No Statutory action was necessary. All food premises were inspected to discuss the application of the food hygiene (general) regs 1960.

CONDEMNED FOODS.

FOOD	QUANTITY
Corned Beef	6 lbs.
Veal	6 lbs.
Fruit	51 lbs.
Fish	4 lbs.
Tinned Milk	4 lbs.
Vegetables	3 lbs.
Pork	21 lbs.

Ice Cream.

All ice cream sold is pre-packed. No samples of Ice Cream were taken for analysis under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulation. Visits were paid to the 21 shops registered for selling ice cream.

Water Supply.

The supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Undertaking from Withnell Reservoir (upland surface water).

930 dwelling houses and an estimated population of 2710 persons are supplied with this water.

30 bacteriological examination of water were carried out during the year of which 16 were satisfactory and 14 were unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory reports were followered up and were found to be due to fluctuation in chlorination due to the poor state of the chlorination plant which needs overhauling in the near future.

One sample of water was left for Chemical analysis and a resume of the result of the analysis are as follows:- (The result of the chemical analysis indicate the presence of an appreciable amount of organic matter which is probably of vegetable origin. There is no indication of animal pollution and subject to satisfactory bacteriological reports the supply may be accepted as wholesome.

The water was faintly yellow in colour and acid in reaction. Its lead content was excessive having regard to the usually accepted maximum limit of 0.3 part per million. The total iron content was also slightly in axcess of the normal limit of 0.3 part per million above which complaints with regard to discolouration and ataining may occur.

It would be advisable to treat the water to reduce its plumbo-solvency and in the meantime to run water to waste from lead pipes first thing in the morning.)

Signed G.H. Walker

County Analyst.

There is a change in the situation with regard to re-grouping and major works of improvement are still held in abeyance awaiting final decision from the Minister.

In the meantime several minor improvements were carried out during the year to give a more constant and cleaner supply to the district.

3 new houses were connected to the public mains making a total of 930 houses with an estimated population of 2710. There are still 28 houses with an estimated population of 80 which have private supplies from springs.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two Sewerage Works with settlement tanks and sprinklers and one with settlement tanks and contact beds, the effluent being dealt with by land irrigation. The only areas without proper drainage systems are isolated farms and premises which are a considerable distance from any sewer. Improvements were carried out at the Abbey Village and Brinscall Sewage Works during the year.

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1960.

Privy Middens	None
Pail Closets	73
Dry Ashpits	1
Moveable Ashbins	920
Waste Water Closets	22
Fresh Water Closets	969
Houses on Water Carriage System	898

During the year 4 pail closets and 3 waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out weekly by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry and disposed of by controlled tipping at Brinscall, Withnell and Abbey Village.

Sanitary Inspection.

The number of inspections for nuisances and for defects during the year was 304 and 11 found to be defective; and 10 informal notices and one statutory Notice were served, and there were no legal proceedings. All the defects were abated.

VERMIN

No infestations of insects were found, although the old houses of all the new tenants of Council houses were inspected. Tenants who are apt to become lethargic are visited regularly and encouraged to keep their houses clean and tidy.

One of the sewage attendants acts part-time as pest officer. His work is summarised as follows.

	Houses	Farms	Other Premises
Inspections	1,360	141	128
Rat. Infestations found and treated	125	3	10
Sewers	1 Block treatment of 60 manholes. 1 Block treatment of 50 manholes.		

Blue Bottles Chorley Road Area.

There were several complaints in the Chorley Road. Oakmere Avenue Area of blue bottles and flies in large numbers. An investigation of the poultry keepers in the area lead to several possible sites of breeding being discovered. The Pest Control Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries arranged for a team of entymalogist to investigate this outbreak and following their recommendations resulted in a marked decrease in the number of flies and blue bottles.

SCHOOLS.

The total number of schools in the district at the end of 1960 was 5.
Sanitary Conditions of schools at the end of the year:-

(a) Number of schools with unsatisfactory yard surface NONE
(b) Sanitary accommodation Number of Schools with: (i) Fresh Water Closets only. 5
(ii) Waste Water Closet only. NIL (iii) Trough Closets only. NIL
(iv) Pail Closets only. NIL (v) Privy Closets only. NIL
(vi) Other types NIL.

(c) Drainage - No. of schools with drainage to:-
(i) Public Sewer 5 (ii) Private Treatment Works NIL

(d) Refuse Disposal - No. of Schools with:-

(i) Dustbins 5 (ii) Dry Ashpits NIL

(e) Water Supply - No. of schools with:

(i) Public Mains 5 (ii) Private supply NIL

No, of private supplies (e) (ii) considered unsatisfactory NIL.

(f) No. of schools where facilities are considered unsatisfactory for (i) washing ONE
(ii) Drinking NIL.

School Meals.

Adequate dinning facilities are not available at all schools in this area. It is wrong for meals to be eaten in the space used for classwork although it is appreciated that village schools are small and do not lend themselves to structural alterations.

Washing facilities are inadequate in the schools, hot and cold water is not available in all and coupled with the school meal service should be brought to a better standard.

HOUSING AND HOUSING CONDITIONS.

3 new bungalows were built at Lodge Bank by individuals. No Council houses were built as the County Planning Committee delayed for one year approval of a site for 12 houses.

256 inspections were made for housing defects. There are now 74 unfit houses which are not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and 43 unfit houses which are capable of being rendered fit. 2 back-to-back houses were closed and 25 unfit or defective houses were made fit. 2 unfit houses at Mount Pleasant were purchased by the Council and made into one house for the temporary accommodation of a large family. Much more action against unfit houses and defective houses would have been possible if there had been a Council programme to rehouse the tenants. Many landlords are refusing to carry out repairs, convert pail closets etc. simply because the Council are not in a position to close the houses. A slum clearance scheme in the Mount Pleasant area is badly needed in addition to a programme for the 24 families on the housing list.

2 caravan sites were disbanded, one after a Planning Enforcement Notice was served. A caravan site in the district will be welcome if it is provided with suitable sanitary arrangements and if it is for holiday use only.

There are still 4 occupied back-to-back houses, 2 obstructive buildings, 60 houses with pail closets and 24 houses with waste water closets in the district.

There are no back-to-earth houses, underground rooms, common lodging houses or canal boats, used for human habitation. All houses have an internal water supply and seperate closet accommodation.

6 Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

There is very little overcrowding in houses except where married sons and daughters can not find homes of their own.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 24 mechanical factories and 3 non-mechanical factories in the district. 46 inspections were carried out and 9 contraventions were noted regarding cleanliness, temperature, ventilation, insufficient water closets, defective water closets and means of escape. In future, means of escape in case of fire will be dealt with by the Fire Authority.

No new industries were attracted to the district and it is necessary for the majority of the inhabitants to travel to other towns for work.

Swimming Baths and Pool.

The Council own the Brinscall Swimming Pool which is 75' x 25'. 5 slipper baths and one steam bath also available. Seperate water closets are provided for each sex. Bathers have to use the spray baths before entering the swimming pool. The water is drawn from the public main, heated by an oil-fired boiler, circulated once in 6 hours through 3 pressure sand filters and treated with sodium carbonate and chlorine. Samples are taken twice daily to ensure that the water has been adequately chlorinated. 1 Bacteriological examination was found to be highly satisfactory.

Repairs were carried out to the floor tiles, roof, boiler, calorifiers, chlorine plant and pump.

The office and slipper baths were painted throughout. The roof trusses over the swimming pool were painted and all the obsolete ventilator rods were removed.

It is recommended that the next tasks should be the pointing of the brickwork outside and the lining of the roof with insulating board and plastic sheeting to prevent heat loss, thereby saving approximately half of the fuel bill.

Vaccination & Immunisation.

	Primary	Revaccinations.
Vaccination	23	4
Dip. only	18	25 Re-inforcements
Dip/W.Cough Combined	NIL	NIL
W.Cough Only	NIL	NIL
Dip/W.Cough/Tet Comb.	37	3 Re-inforcements.
Dip/Tet Combined	2	31 "

Polio Vaccination	(2 injections)	37 (0-15 years)	30 (over 15 years)
" Re-inforcement	(3 injections)	63 (0-15 years)	69 (over 15 years)

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	7	9	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	14	22	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)..	5	6	NIL	NIL
Total	26	37	NIL	NIL

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	7	7	NIL	NIL	NIL
Overcrowding (S.2).....			NIL	NIL	NIL
Unreasonable temperature (S.3).....	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).....	L	L	NIL		NIL

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).....,					
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7) (a) Insufficient.....	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	1	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes.....					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	1				
Total.....	3	2	-	-	-

Outworkers.
Under Section 110 (1) (c) ..... 3 (Wearing Apparel)